

that the future is brighter than any of our glorious past.

And we can do it. We have it within our means if we have the vision and the will and if we make up our mind, each and every one of us, to be good citizens.

Yes, we have done a lot in the last 4 years, but the last 4 years is just an indication of what we can do in the next 4 and the years beyond if we will build that bridge together. Would you help me do that? *[Applause]*

Thank you. God bless you. Let's go get it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. at Samuel Shephard Gateway Educational Park. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Al Green; Darlene Green, St. Louis city comptroller; Francis G. Slay, president, St. Louis board of aldermen; Robert P. McCulloch, St. Louis County prosecutor; Cleveland Hammonds, superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools; Joseph Carmichael, State Democratic chair; State Senator B.J. (Jet) Banks; and Mayor Freeman R. Bosley, Jr., of St. Louis.

Statement on the Medicare Demonstration of Military Managed Care

September 10, 1996

Today I am pleased to announce, on behalf of more than one million Medicare-eligible military retirees, a new demonstration that will expand health care options for our Nation's military retirees.

This initiative moves forward an idea—Medicare subvention, or Medicare reimbursement of Department of Defense health facilities—that the military retiree community has sought for many years. This administration first embraced the concept of Medicare subvention 3 years ago under health reform. More recently, the administration moved the concept forward in a legislative proposal for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The demonstration I am announcing today, the "Medicare Demonstration of Military Managed Care," is a partnership between the Departments of Health and Human Services and Defense that can generate multiple benefits: expanded health care options and improved access to military treat-

ment facilities for Medicare-eligible military retirees; a better way for the Department of Defense to care for retired beneficiaries and support medical readiness; and savings for the Medicare Trust Fund by providing health care to Medicare-eligible military retirees at a lower cost in the DoD health care system.

Under this demonstration project, Medicare-eligible military retirees in five communities could enroll in Defense's new TRICARE Prime managed care system, and Medicare would reimburse DoD for these enrollees at a rate below what is traditionally paid to Medicare managed care plans. To protect the Medicare Trust Funds, Defense would receive Medicare payments only after meeting its current level of funding effort. The demonstration will test whether Medicare subvention is a cost-effective alternative for delivering accessible and quality care to dual-eligible beneficiaries.

We will submit legislation reflecting this agreement shortly. I am pleased that there is strong bipartisan support for this demonstration, and I look forward to working with Congress in quickly enacting enabling legislation this year.

We owe a great debt to those who have risked their lives defending our Nation. This agreement is an important step toward repaying that debt.

Statement on Signing the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1997

September 10, 1996

I have signed into law, H.R. 3845, the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1997." This Act provides \$719 million in Federal appropriations for the District of Columbia.

The total amount of Federal funds appropriated to the District for FY 1997 includes \$660 million for the Federal payment to the District of Columbia, \$52 million for the Federal contribution to retirement funds, \$5.7 million for Presidential Inaugural expenses, and \$1 million to help address the District's drinking water problem.

I am disappointed that the Congress has excluded the \$52 million increase in the Federal contribution to the pension payment